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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-37 (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A method for treating an interleukin-12 overproduction-related disorder, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the compound of formula (I):

wherein

$$N = \begin{pmatrix} R^a \\ R_b \end{pmatrix}$$
 R_1 is , aryl, or heteroaryl;

each of R_2 and R_4 , independently, is R^c , halogen, nitro, cyano, isothionitro, SR^c , or OR^c ; or R_2 and R_4 , taken together, is carbonyl[[.]];

 $R_3 \text{ is } R^c, \text{ alkenyl, alkynyl, } OR^c, OC(O)R^c, SO_2R^c, S(O)R^c, S(O_2)NR^cR^d, SR^c, NR^cR^d, NR^cCOR^d, NR^cC(O)OR^d, NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d, NR^cSO_2R^d, COR^c, C(O)OR^c, or C(O)NR^cR^d; \\$

R₅ is H or alkyl;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6;

X is O, S, S(O), S(O₂), or NR^c ;

Y is a covalent bond, CH₂, C(O), C=N-R^c, C=N-OR^c, C=N-SR^c, O, S, S(O), S(O₂), or NR^c ;

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Z is N or CH;

one of U and V is N, and the other is CR^c; and

W is O, S, S(O), S(O₂), NR^c , or $NC(O)R^c$;

in which each of R^a and R^b, independently, is H, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl; and each of R^c and R^d, independently, is H, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, or alkylcarbonyl.

- 39. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein the disorder is rheumatoid arthritis, sepsis, Crohn's disease, multiple sclerosis, psoriasis, or insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus.
- 40. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of the compound of formula (I):

$$R_3$$
 R_4
 R_4
 R_4
 R_5
 R_5
 R_5
 R_5

wherein

$$R_1$$
 is $N = R^a$, aryl, or heteroaryl;

each of R_2 and R_4 , independently, is R^c , halogen, nitro, cyano, isothionitro, SR^c , or OR^c ; or R_2 and R_4 , taken together, is carbonyl;

R₃ is R^c, alkenyl, alkynyl, OR^c, OC(O)R^c, SO₂R^c, S(O)R^c, S(O₂)NR^cR^d, SR^c, NR^cR^d, NR^cCOR^d, NR^cC(O)OR^d, NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d, NR^cSO₂R^d, COR^c, C(O)OR^c, or C(O)NR^cR^d;

R₅ is H or alkyl;

n is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6;

X is O, S, S(O), S(O₂), or NR^c ;

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Y is a covalent bond, CH₂, C(O), C=N-R^c, C=N-OR^c, C=N-SR^c, O, S, S(O), S(O₂), or NR^c ;

Z is N or CH;

one of U and V is N, and the other is CRc; and

W is O, S, S(O), S(O₂), NR^c , or $NC(O)R^c$;

in which each of R^a and R^b , independently, is H, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl; and each of R^c and R^d , independently, is H, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cyclyl, heterocyclyl, or alkylcarbonyl; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

41. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 40, wherein R_1 is

$$N = R^a$$

- 42. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 41, wherein U is N and V is CH.
- 43. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 41, wherein Z is N and W is O.
- 44. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 41, wherein X is NR^c.
- 45. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 44, wherein R^c is H, methyl, ethyl, or acetyl.
- 46. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 41, wherein Y is O or CH_2 , and n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4.
- 47. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 46, wherein R_3 is aryl or heteroaryl.

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48. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 47, wherein R₃ is pyridinyl.

- 49. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 46, wherein R₃ is OR^c, SR^c, C(O)OR^c, or C(O)NR^cR^d.
 - 50. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 46, wherein R₃ is

$$R^{f}$$
 A' or R^{f} A'

in which

each of A and A', independently, is O, S, or NH; each of R^e and R^f , independently is H, alkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl; and m is 1 or 2.

51. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 41, wherein one of R^a and R^b is

in which

B is NRⁱ, O, or S;

B' is N or CRⁱ;

R^g is H, alkyl, or alkoxyl;

 R^h is halogen, NO₂, CN, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, OR^c, OC(O)R^c, SO₂R^c, S(O)R^c, S(O₂)NR^cR^d, SR^c, NR^cR^d, NR^cCOR^d, NR^cC(O)OR^d, NR^cC(O)NR^cR^d, NR^cSO₂R^d, COR^c, C(O)OR^c, or C(O)NR^cR^d;

Ri is H, alkyl, or alkylcarbonyl;

p is 0, 1, or 2; and

q is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4.

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52. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 51, wherein one of R^a and R^b is

$$\mathbb{R}^{q}$$
 or $\mathbb{R}^{h_{q}}$; and

He is reliable in delivering work product to the client on time the other of R^a and R^b is H or alkyl.

- (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 52, wherein R^g is H, methyl, ethyl, propyl, cyclopropyl, methoxy, or ethoxy; R^h is F, Cl, CN, methyl, methoxy, ethoxy, OC(O)CH₃, OC(O)C₂H₅, C(O)OH, C(O)OC₂H₅, C(O)NH₂, NHC(O)CH₃, or S(O₂)NH₂; R^i is H, methyl, ethyl, or acetyl, and q is 0, 1, or 2.
- 54 (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 53, wherein R^g is methyl or methoxy; Rⁱ is H; and q is 0.
 - (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 53, wherein U is N and V is CH.
 - 56 (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 55, wherein Z is N and W is O.
- 57 (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 56, wherein X is NR^c ; and R^c is H, methyl, ethyl, or acetyl.
- New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 57, wherein Y is O or CH₂; and n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4.
- 59 (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 58, wherein R_3 is aryl or heteroaryl.

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60 (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 59, wherein R₃ is pyridinyl.

- (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 53, wherein Y is O or CH_2 , and n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4.
- 62 (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 61, wherein R_3 is aryl or heteroaryl.
 - 63 (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 61, wherein R₃ is pyridinyl.
- (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 40, wherein R_1 is aryl or heteroaryl.
 - (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 64, wherein R₁ is

in which

D is O, S, or NR^m;

R^j is benzo, halogen, CN, hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, alkoxyl, aryloxyl, or heteroaryloxyl;

R^m is H, alkyl, or alkylcarbonyl; and r is 0, 1, or 2.

- 66 (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 65, wherein X is NR^c ; and R^c is H, methyl, ethyl, or acetyl.
 - 67 (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 66, wherein U is N and V is CH.

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(New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 67, wherein Z is N and W is O.

(New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 68, wherein Y is O or CH_2 ; and n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4.

(New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 65, wherein Y is O or CH_2 ; and n is 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4.

- 71 (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 70, wherein R_3 is aryl or heteroaryl.
 - 72 (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 71, wherein R₃ is pyridinyl.
- 73 (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 70, wherein R_3 is OR^c , SR^c , $C(O)OR^c$, or $C(O)NR^cR^d$.
 - 74 (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 70, wherein R_3 is

$$R^{f}$$
 A' A' A' A' A' A'

in which

each of A and A', independently, is O, S, or NH; each of R^e and R^f , independently is H, alkyl, aryl, or heteroaryl; and m is 1 or 2.

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75 (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 70, wherein R_1 is

76. (New) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 75, wherein R^j is methyl, ethyl, propyl, or benzo; and r is 1 or 2.